

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SECTO 04117 01 OF 02 191743Z
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SS-15 /024 W

-----191749Z 088650 /41

O 191653Z MAY 77

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 4117

DEPARTMENT FOR S/PRS; PLEASE PASS WHITEHOUSE FOR
POWELL AND BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS) SZ PARM

SUBJECT: HODDING CARTER BRIEFING, GENEVA 19 MAY 1977

HERE IS THE TEXT OF BRIEFING GIVEN BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
HODDING CARTER, III

QUOTE

GOOD AFTERNOON. INTENSIVE DISCUSSION WERE HELD THIS MORNING
AND EARLY AFTERNOON FOR TWO HOURS AND 40 MINUTES. THE SUBJECT
WAS SALT. THERE WILL NOW BE A PAUSE IN THE SALT DISCUSSIONS.
THIS AFTERNOON'S TALKS WILL RESUME AT 5 P.M. IN THIS BUILDING
ON THE 18TH FLOOR. THE SUBJECT WILL BE THE MIDDLE EAST. TOMORROW
THE TWO SIDES WILL PICK-UP AGAIN ON SALT. THE TIME FOR THAT
HAS NOT BEEN SET. THE PAUSE IS INTENDED TO GIVE THE PARTIES ON
BOTH SIDES A TIME TO REFLECT FURTHER ON THE EXCHANGES TO-DATE.
TODAY'S TALKS WERE BEGUN BY SECRETARY VANCE, ALL THE DISCUSSION
WAS IN THE HANDS OF EITHER THE SECRETARY OR MR. GROMYKO. ANY
ATTEMPT AT THIS POINT TO GIVE CHARACTERIZATIONS OF THE TALKS OR
BAROMETRIC READINGS WOULD BE MISLEADING, SO I AM NOT GOING TO
DO IT. WE WILL NOT HAVE A BRIEFING OR A PRESS CONFERENCE TONIGHT
BY SECRETARY VANCE. THERE WILL BE ONE WHEN THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 04117 01 OF 02 191743Z

PROGRESSED FURTHER ON SALT. FOR YOUR PLANNING PURPOSES I WOULD
SUGGEST THAT YOU SHOULD NOT ANTICIPATE A DEPARTURE FROM HERE
BEFORE SATURDAY NOON AND PROBABLY WE WILL NOT BE DEPARTING
UNTIL SOMETIME SATURDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING. THE PARTICIPANTS
TODAY ON THE AMERICA SIDE INCLUDED ALL OF THOSE FROM YESTERDAY.
IN ADDITION LES GELB AND AMBASSADOR RALPH EARLE PARTICIPATED
ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. THE SOVIET SIDE WAS THE SAME AS YESTERDAY.

QUESTIONS?

Q. HODDING, WHEN YOU REFER TO REFLECTIONS, THIS PAUSE FOR REFLECTION, AT LEAST ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, WILL THAT REFLECTION INVOLVE ANY COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT?

A. BARRY, THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE PAUSE ON OUR SDIE INVOLVES COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, AS I'VE INDICATED BEFORE, IS A CONSTANT AND I WOULDN'T SUGGEST THAT IN THIS CASE THERE'S SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT IT. THE SECRETARY IS IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT EITHER BY CABLE OR OTHERWISE EVERY DAY AND THIS IS SIMPLY A TIME TO ALLOW THE PARTIES TO CONSIDER FURTHER WHAT HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD IN THESE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. ALL RIGHT, ARE YOU SAYING THEN THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT? HE'S BEEN HERE TWO DAYS.

A. THE SECRETARY COMMUNICATES WITH THE PRESIDENT EVERY DAY.

Q. I KNOW, BUT HAS HE? I KNOW IT'S A REGULAR PROCEDURE.

A. YES, WELL, THERE'S NO DEVIATION FROM PROCEDURE, BILL.

Q. HODDING, WHEN YOU SAY APUSE FOR REFLECTION, THE SUGGESTION IS THERE'S SOMETHING NEW TO REFLECT ON. IS THAT A FARI CONCLUSION?

A. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DRAW YOUR --OH, EXCUSE ME, THE QUESTION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SECTO 04117 01 OF 02 191743Z

IS A PAUSE FOR REFLECTION LEAVES AN INFERENCE OR IT SEEMS THAT I'M IMPLYING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING TO REFLECT UPON. SOMETHING NEW, YES. I WOULD SIMPLY NOT WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THE REASON FOR IT. I THINK THAT THE FACT OF A PAUSE WILL HAVE TO SEAK FOR ITSELF.

Q. HODDING, COULD YOU EXPLAIN AT ALL WHAT INTENSIVE MEANS AS OPPOSED TO, FOR EXAMPLE, YESTERDAY YOUR OTHER CHARACTERIZATION. CAN YOU DESCRIBE IT AT ALL?

A. I THINK INTENSIVE JUST MEANS THAT THERE WAS A VERY CONSIDERABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THIS DISCUSSION AND I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IT ANY FURTHER.

Q. MR. CARTER, PLEASE.

A. I'LL COME THERE IN A SECOND.

Q. MR. CARTER COULD YOU JUST TELL US WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS GOING ON WITH ITS ORGINAL PLANT ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST IN SPITE OF

THE CHANGE OF ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT OR (INAUDIBLE)?

A. YES, THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS GOING ON WITH ITS PLANS ON THE MIDDLE EAST DESPITE THE RESULTS OF THE ISRAELI ELECTION. OF COURSE, THAT'S REALLY A TWO OR THREE PART QUESTION. IF YOU MEAN ARE WE STILL GOING TO SEE FAHD THIS WEEK, THE ANSWER IS YES, THIS COMING WEEK THE ANSWER IS YEST. DO WE STILL INTEND TO CONTINUE THE ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, THE ANSWER IS YES. DO YOU MEAN IS THERE SOME NEW FACTOR IN OUR CONSIDERATIONS AND I AT THAT POINT JUST SMPLY HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT IF YOU WERE REFERRING TO THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS, I STAND ON WHAT I'VE SAID BEFORE WHICH IS I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. I THINK THAT I WOULD REFER YOU TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SAID THROUGH HIS PRESS SECRETARY AND LET IT GO AT THAT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT GENEVA, HODDING. DOES THE SECRETARY SHARE WALDHEIM'S PESSIMISM ABOUT A GENEVA CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SECTO 04117 01 OF 02 191743Z

YEAR?

A. I THINK THAT MR. WALDHEIM WHEN PRESSED MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND NOT SEPAKING FOR SECRETARY VANCE OR FOR MR. GROMYKO. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IN ANY WAY THE SECRETARY'S REACTION. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE HIS FEELING ABOUT A GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE ARE STILL, AS YOU KNOW, COMMITTED TO THE NEED FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

Q. YOU SAY THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE A PRESS CONFERENCE OR BRIEFING OF THIS AFTERNOON'S MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. THAT IS ...

Q. DOES IT MEAN THAT ...

A. BY THE SECRETARY, AH.

A. OH, THERE WILL BE A BRIEFING. I WILL BRIEF.

Q. WHEN? WHAT TIME?

A. IF IT STARTS AT FIVE, I THINK YOU SHOULD PLAN ON 8:00 OJCLOCK TONIGHT.

Q. ARE YOU STILL COMMITTED TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR?

A. I REALLY AM NOT GOING TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.

Q. HODDING ...

A. EXCUSE ME NOW, I PROMISED.

Q. (INAUDIBLE) IMPLY THAT SOME COMPROMISE (INAUDIBLE)

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SECTO 04117 02 OF 02 191809Z
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SS-15 /024 W

-----191827Z 089114 /42

O 191653Z MAY 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SECTO 4117

DEPARTMENT FOR S/PRS; PLEASE PASS WHITHOUSE FOR
POWELL AND BRZEZINSKI

A. THE QUESTION IS MR. WALHEIM SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE
SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE TWO PROPOSALS. THE QUESTION
IS RURTHER IS THERE SOME KING OF NEW SET OF COMPROMISE PROGPOSALS.
I THINK AT THIS POINT I AGAIN WOULD JUST HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WE'RE
HAVING VERY INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS AND NOT ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE
THEM. MR. WALDHEIM, I THINK, RATHER CAREFULLY SAID AGAIN THAT
HE WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND I WILL HAVE TO LET HIM SEPAK FOR
HIMSELF.

Q. MR. CARTER

A. JIM

Q. WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION TODAY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSALS
THAT THERE BE A SUBSTANTIALREDUCTION (INAUDIBLE)

A. I THINK THAT OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE HAD ON THE TABLE SINCE MOSCOW
PROPOSALS FOR SUBSTATNIAL REDUCTIONS AND...

Q. (INAUDIBLE)

A. I THINK THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES, AND I SAY THAT ADVISEDLY,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 04117 02 OF 02 191809Z

WERE AGAIN DISCUSSED TODAY AS THEY WERE YESTERDAY.

Q. DID IT GO BEYOND AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND WAS THERE A COMMON BASIS FOR DISCUSSION TODAY?

A. I THINK WHAT WAS HELD TODAY WAS A DISCUSSION ON A SET OF VIEWS PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.

Q. HODDING, ARE YOU ENCOURAGED BY THE COURSE OF THE TALKS SO FAR?

A. I THINK, AS I SAID BEFORE, THAT FOR ME TO ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE IT OR GIVE IT A READING WOULDN'T BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND MIGHT BE MISLEADING. I REALLY CAN'T SAY THAT.

Q. WELL, HODDING, TO GO THROUGH YESTERDAY'S DRILL AGAIN, CAN YOU ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF GOOD-FAITH BARGAINING AND ALSO DO YOU STILL WANT TO SAY BUSINESSLIKE OR HAVE YOU GOT SOME NEW CHARACTERIZATIONS?

A. BARRY, ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I THINK THAT THE FACT THAT WE'VE HAD OVER FIVE HOURS' WORTH OF TALKS AND THAT WE'RE GOING TO TALK SOME MORE LEAVES SOME IMPLICATIONS THAT WE ARE HAVING FULL BUSINESSLIKE, GOOD FAITH DISCUSSIONS.

Q. IN FACT, WHAT YOU THINK COULD HAPPEN IS THAT THEY ARE GOING BACK TO SALT AGAIN TOMORROW, FRIDAY, AND THEN INTO SATURDAY?

A. THAT IS AT LEAST A POSSIBILITY. I WOULD HESITATE TO SAY IT EXCEPT THAT I AM IN FACT LED TO BELIEVE THAT SATURDAY NOON WOULD BE THE EARLIEST WE'D BE TALKING ABOUT, SO.

Q. WHY IS IT GOING INTO AN EXTRA DAY? DIDN'T YOU THINK IT WAS ONLY GOING TO BE TWO OR THREE?

A. WELL, YOU KNOW, EXTRA DAYS -- I'VE READ SO MANY STORIES. I UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SECTO 04117 02 OF 02 191809Z

READ ONE VERY AUTHORITATIVE ONE THAT SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD INSISTED ON FOUR DAYS, WHICH I WILL NOW SAY UP FRONT IS RIDICULOUS. NOBODY INSISTED ON ANY NUMBER OF DAYS. THERE WAS SIMPLY JUST FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ALWAYS A FRAMEWORK WHICH WAS ALWAYS EXPANDABLE OR CONTRACTIBLE, DEPENDING ON HOW FAR, WE GOT IN THE TALKS.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY WILL GO BEYOND SATURDAY?

A. BEYOND SATURDAY? FRANKLY, NO.

Q. HODDING, SINCE YOU MENTION THE FRAMEWORK YOURSELF, IS IT STILL THE BEST AMERICAN EXPECTATION THAT (INAUDIBLE) THIS SERIES OF TALKS (INAUDIBLE).

A. I THINK THAT AT THIS POINT I JUST HAVE TO GO WITH THE CHARACTERIZATIONS I'VE GIVEN.

Q. HODDING, COULD YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE WARNKE-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS? WILL THEY HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW?

A. I BELIEVE THAT TODAY THERE IS A DRAFTING SESSION UNDERWAY AT THE WARNKE-LEVEL. THAT WILL BE THIS AFTERNOON, I BELIEVE. AND THERE WILL BE A PLENARY SESSION TOMORROW. I HESITATE TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT AS TO WHEN OR HOW A COMMUNIQUE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. I THINK I WOULD, HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, LOOK FOR ONE.

Q. YES, WHAT ARE THEY DRAFTING, IN FACT? I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT.

A. WELL, THIS IS A WORKING LEVEL SALT WHICH WERE RESUMED BY MR. WARNKE AND HIS GROUP, WELL MR. WARNKE CAME HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEM AROUND THE 10TH AS I RECALL OR 11TH OF THIS MONTH. HE FLEW IN HERE ON THE 10TH.

Q. WHAT WOULD THEY BE DRAFTING, DO YOU KNOW?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SECTO 04117 02 OF 02 191809Z

A. WELL, I THINK THAT THAT'S WHAT THEY WILL HAVE TO COME OUT WITH WHEN THEY RELEASE IT. YES SIR.

Q. TOMORROW ONLY SALT AND NO MIDDLE EAST?

A. THE QUESTION IS TOMORROW ONLY SALT NOT THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ANSWER IS THAT IT IS MY BEST INFORMATION THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE TALKED THROUGH TONIGHT AND THAT THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS TOMORROW WHENEVER IT OCCURS WILL BE SALT.

Q. HODDING, I HATE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO MR. WALDHEIM, BUT HIS STATEMENT IS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE. IT DOESN'T LEAVE MUCH ROOM. IT SAYS THAT IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE ARE DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND THAT THESE DIFFERENCES HAVE NOT BEEN BRIDGED TO MY KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN THE LAST MEETING AND THE CURRENT MEETING. CAN'T YOU TELL US IF THOSE DIFFERENCES ARE SO TOTALLY UNBRIDGEABLE AS THEY STAND RIGHT NOW?

A. I HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH YOUR CHARACTERIZATIONS OF WALDHEIM SINCE WHAT HE ALSO SAID WAS THESE ARE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO

WHICH HE IS NOT A PARTY AND THAT HE DOES NOT REALLY KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON INSIDE THAT ROOM AND I SIMPLY REPEAT THAT MR. WALDHEIM
VERY SPECIFICALLY SAID HE IS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF. I'M NOT GOING
TO CHARACTERIZE WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE THE ROOM.
THANK YOU. END QUOTE. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, PRESS CONFERENCES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO04117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770178-1154
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770539/aaaabhkx.tel
Line Count: 337
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6d3cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2449053
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HODDING CARTER BRIEFING, GENEVA 19 MAY 1977 HERE IS THE TEXT OF BRIEFING GIVEN BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER, III
TAGS: OVIP, PARM, SZ, US, XF, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH), (CARTER, HODDING III)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6d3cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009